discussions with Myanmar to increase the number of border trade points between the two countries.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A number of Indo-Myanmar cross-border projects in the area of infrastructure development, energy and gas exploration, oceanography, space applications etc. are currently at various stages of operation. In addition, India has extended a credit line of US$ 15 million to Myanmar.

To promote cross-border infrastructure! linkages with Bangladesh the Dh&ka-Koikata bus service, inaugurated m 1999 has been started. In addition, agreements have been signed for running passenger train services between the two countries. There are several joint ventures in the private sector. Government of India has also extended a credit line of Rs. 200 crores to the Government of Bangladesh.

Rehabilitation of minorities in Bangladesh

832. SHRIP. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

SHRIKARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime back the Vishwa Hindu Parishad demanded that Government should take up with the Government of Bangladesh the question of providing a homeland out of its territory for the rehabilitation Of the Hindu who were recently subjected to extreme atrocities;

(b) if so, the details of the representation submitted by the VHP to the Ministry of External Affairs in their Memorandum;

(c) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken with regard thereto; and

(d) what further steps are proposed to be taken to safeguard interest of the Hindu minorities in Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.